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January 29, 1992

Mr. Peter M. Swindells
148 Oakwood Drive
Stafford, Virginia 22554

Dear Mr. Swindells:

Thank you for your letter urging the release of the sealed files in the John F. Kennedy investigation by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, of which I served as Chairman.

This is to advise you that, when the Committee which I chaired completed its work in the investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, we released 12 volumes of information regarding our investigation, which were available to the American public. Additionally we held in excess of fifteen days of nationally publicized and televised hearings of the results of our investigation. With regard to the assassination of President Kennedy, our committee began its work thirteen years after the death of the President.

The records pertaining to our committee's investigation were sealed by the House of Representatives, in accordance with a rule of the House of Representatives concerning unpublished House Committee Records. These records were not sealed pursuant to any effort to conceal any of the facts and circumstances pertaining to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

I deem it unfortunate that people are being led to believe that the records sealed by the House of Representatives pertaining to our investigation have covered up facts pertaining to the assassination of the President. I also deem it a disservice to our committee to have its good work impugned by persons who have never read or studied our publicly released reports and who are led to believe that any information not contained in our reports in some way covers up government involvement in the assassination of the President. Indeed, it is unfortunate that most people have not taken the time to read the results of our investigation which were printed by the United States Government Printing Office and made available to the public.

Consequently I am now in the process of initiating action in the House and Senate, to release not only the records of the committee which I chaired but also records of other committees and agencies which have sealed records pertaining to the assassination of the President. I am proceeding as expeditiously as possible with the hope that the release of such records can be accomplished in the current Congress.

I appreciate your taking the time to express your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

LOUIS STOKES
Member of Congress

LS/nkr